

SEX, LOVE, & GLOBALIZATION
Fall 2005

Professor Florence Babb
WST 6935 – Section 9640; Mondays 3-6pm; 2303 Turlington Hall; 3 Credits

Office hours: 2-4 pm Thursdays and by appointment, 3326 Turlington Hall
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Course description and objective:

This graduate seminar will consider the diverse ways in which intimacy and power mix with sex and gender in an increasingly transnational world. We will read and discuss various theorizations and ethnographies by scholars in anthropology, history, and cultural studies, as well as in feminist studies. Topics will include, but won't be limited to, new forms of romance mediated by the Internet and global economy; non-heteronormative sexualities in diverse locales; diasporic cultures and intimacies; commoditized sex and romance in tourist circuits; and the impact of globalization on youth and family relationships. The course will focus on recent and innovative ethnographic writing based on studies carried out in the US and beyond, in areas of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and their diasporas. Videos and occasional recommended outside lectures will complement course material.

Course books, available at Wild Iris Bookstore, 802 W. University Avenue:

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, eds. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. Henry Holt and Company, 2002.

Linda Anne Rebhun, *The Heart is Unknown Country: Love in the Changing Economy of Northeast Brazil*. Stanford University Press, 1999.

Nicole Constable, *Romance on a Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and "Mail-Order" Marriages*. University of California Press, 2003.

Ara Wilson, *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*. University of California Press, 2004.

Martin Manalansan, *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Duke University Press, 2003.

Denise Brennan, *What's Love Got to Do with It? Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic*. Duke University Press, 2004.

Course requirements and policies:

Participation

Because the course meets just once each week, full attendance in all classes is essential. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and ready to participate in discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a part in facilitating the weekly discussion. Short précis of the week's reading will be collected during the class periods to ensure that all have given thoughtful attention to the reading. [50% of course grade]

Paper

There will be a course paper of approximately 20pp based on additional reading due at the end of the semester. I will expect to receive proposals for these papers by the end of October, including short bibliographies of material to be referenced. These papers may focus on a single work to be examined closely or they may draw on multiple works in order to support a specific topic of relevance to the course. Everyone will have an opportunity to give an oral presentation of their subject matter during the final weeks of the semester. [50% of course grade]

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida's honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

Course readings:

August 29 Introduction to the course
 Video, "Chain of Love" (dir.: Marije Meerman, 2001, 50 min.)

September 5 Labor Day—no class
 Read from *Global Woman*

September 12 *Global Woman* (to end)

September 19 *The Heart is Unknown Country*, to p.107

September 26 *The Heart is Unknown Country*, to end

- October 3 *Romance on a Global Stage*, to p.115
- October 10 *Romance on a Global Stage*, to end
Video, “In the Name of Love” (dir.: Shannon O’Rourke, 58 min.)
- October 17 *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, to p.101
- October 24 *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, to end
- October 31 *Global Divas*, to p.88
- November 7 *Global Divas*, to end
- November 14 *What’s Love Got to Do with It?*, to p.115
- November 21 *What’s Love Got to Do with It?*, to end
- November 28 Presentation of projects
- December 5 Presentation of projects
- Exam week Final papers due